

## TAB 5: PROJECT BENEFIT/COMPATIBILITY

**5A. DESCRIBE THE SIGNIFICANT BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY, REGION OR STATE. IDENTIFY ANY STATE BENEFITS RESULTING FROM THE PROJECT INCLUDING THE ACHIEVEMENT OF STATE TRANSPORTATION POLICIES OR OTHER STATE GOALS.**

### **COMMUNITY, REGION, AND STATE BENEFITS**

By making the express toll lanes into a functioning network, the following positive impacts can greatly improve the daily lives of northern Virginia residents.

#### ***Improved Overall Speed of Travel***

On the express toll lanes, speeds of 60 miles per hour should be possible any time of day. Transit, both public and private, will typically operate on the lanes at no charge. Toll plazas will be removed and replaced by electronic gantries on the express lanes only.

#### ***Increased Capacity***

Conversion of the HOV lane to an express toll lane and adding a separate lane will increase the capacity of the Dulles Toll Road to 70,000 vehicles-per-day. Express toll lane per-vehicle occupancies during rush hour can be managed to be close to three, as experienced on the Shirley Highway. Transit demand is expected to be satisfied with only 6% of capacity, leaving the remainder to be sold to build the expansion, and ration demand, at the same time.

#### ***Improved Flow and Incident Management***

The toll roads will be monitored by real-time video cameras along the entire distance, with the ability to shift lanes to accommodate traffic flow. This is important to note since, as an example, the Dulles Corridor has a 2:1 ratio of directional flow during rush hour.

#### ***Express Toll Lanes Network***

In a report by transportation expert Robert Poole, the concept of linking existing express toll lanes was recommended as follows: "...the fragmented and unconnected HOV facilities that already exist in metropolitan areas today must be extended, linked and interconnected so as to create seamless region-wide networks of unobstructed lanes. Only then would transit riders and motorists be able to take full advantage of the benefits of time savings and increased travel reliability of premium lanes." (Source: *HOT Networks: A New Plan for Congestion Relief and Better Transit*; Robert W. Poole, Jr. and C. Kenneth Orski; February 2003)

#### ***Economically Feasible and Fair Financing Plan***

Because the project will be funded largely by private money, it can be built without higher gasoline taxes, without special tax districts, and without ongoing subsidies from taxpayers out of general funds. Special Tax Districts can be

5A.

abolished; Tyson's Corner may choose to keep tax district to finance local loop service between Spring Hill and West Falls Church metro. By making tolls optional and abolishing full-time tolls on the general purpose lanes, a market-based approach is achieved that is fair for all income levels.

### **STATE TRANSPORTATION POLICIES AND GOALS**

By effectively connecting existing and improved roadways, the overall transportation network in northern Virginia becomes exponentially more efficient. Further, by utilizing private funds, minimal impact is made on the transportation budget. Other benefits of our plan include:

#### ***Increased Highway Capacity***

Additional lanes and connection of other improved lanes adds much-needed capacity with minimal disruption to traffic and local residents.

#### ***Improved Flow and Incident Management***

Our plan will include traffic-monitoring cameras and overall congestion control. This will allow, and even promote, improved incident response rates.

#### ***More Efficient Means of Transportation***

We anticipate a Level of Service no worse than C on the express toll lanes and a Level of Service better on the general lanes due to extra capacity from the express toll lanes.

**5B. DESCRIBE SIGNIFICANT BENEFITS TO THE STATE'S ECONOMIC CONDITION. DISCUSS WHETHER THIS PROJECT IS CRITICAL TO ATTRACTING OR MAINTAINING COMPETITIVE INDUSTRIES AND BUSINESSES TO THE STATE OR REGION.**

It is a widely held belief that time is money. In truth, time spent caught in traffic or waiting for the bus simply costs businesses and their employees millions of dollars' worth of productive work and leisure time every day. Providing an effective transportation network is critical to drawing in new businesses, as more and more businesses that rely on just-in-time or time-sensitive deliveries. Reliable and consistent transportation, a multi-modal network, and access to major interstate highways figure greatly into a firm's decision on where to locate.

Our plan offers benefits to businesses and their employees through:

- Streamlined transportation system and express toll lane network
- More options for motorists and commuters
- Better travel-time predictability for long- and short-haul trucks
- Market-based approach to multi-modal transportation system